(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARATHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A project report for development of Secondary level Hospitals, one 50 bedded T.B. hospital, 10 base hospitals and one cyclone relief training centre in Andhra Pradesh, at an estimated cost of Rs. 236.70 crores, was received from the State Government for posing for World Bank assistance. The proposal has been preliminarily discussed with the World Bank and the Government of Andhra Pradesh have since submitted a revised proposal for Rs. 322 crores covering all the secondary level hospitals. An identification mission of the World Bank visited Hyderabad in June, 1992 in this behalf.

(c) The World Bank has accepted the proposal in principle.

(d) and (e) The World Bank has asked for further detailed information regarding the approach and strategies proposed by Government of Andhra Pradesh for strengthening and upgrading secondary level hospitals, which is under the consideration of the State Government.

Eradication of Blindness in Andhra Pradesh

17. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a proposal regarding eradication of blindness in the State with World Bank assistance;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that World Bank has accepted the above proposal;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, whot are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) The proposol of the Government of Andhra Pradesh *inter-alia* envisages provision of District Mobile Units, increase of ophthalmic bed strength in District hospitals, upgradation of PHCs, health education, grant-in-aid for Voluntary Organisation and strengthening of State Opthalmic Cells etc.

(c) to (e) The proposal, which is still at a preliminary stage, is still under process and has to be revised according to the requirements for such externally aided projects.

Population Growth

18. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what was the annual rate of population growth in the years 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that population growth is in very high order and what effective steps are being taken by Government to control the rapid growth of population; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to win over the religious sentiments of an appreciable part of a section of population against family planning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) The Natural Growth Rate of population is obtained as the difference between the estimates of birth and death rates as obtained from Sample Registration System of Registrar General, India. Based on these estimates, the annual Natural Growth Rate of population for the years 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989 & 1990 (latest year for which information is so far available) work out to 2.15%, 2.13%, 2.05%, 2.03% and 2.05% respectively.

(b) and (c) The Growth Rate still remains on a higher side because of a relatively